MONTEREY NEWS

June 2008
VOLUME XXXVIII · Number 6

The Town

Highways and Operations

The Select Board met with Director of Operations Maynard Forbes this month to discuss the work on Curtis Road. The preparation on the drainage was finished and bids were opened for the paving contract for paving to start around the first week in June. The contract was awarded to LB Paving as the low bidder. Beartown Mountain Road, from Tyringham Road to Fairview Road, is the next town road scheduled for repaving.

The Transfer Station bids will be opened the second Monday in June and were to be advertised the weeks of May 19 and 26.

A citizen's complaint regarding the timing of drawdown in Lake Garfield was discussed, which he felt was damaging his dock. Forbes researched the state's policy on having a dock, and reported that keeping a dock in the water year round is an "at

Joe Baker

Rich Guthrie led a Cultural Council bird walk along Diane's Trail on a recent Saturday morning: (l. to r.) Dianna Downing, Will Marsh, Glynis Oliver, Guthrie, Jonah Carlson, Bob Carlson, Ella Carlson. The highlight was a Blackburnian warbler.

your own risk" decision. It was agreed that if the citizen wanted to pursue the matter further, he should make arrangements to attend a Select Board meeting.

At the May 12th meeting, Forbes said he is researching options for resolving the beaver problems in Monterey. Sue Protheroe said she would give him names of people the Lake Buel Association is using.

Forbes reported that the glass partition for the Inter-Departmental Secretary's office, to control heating and cooling issues, would be completed soon.

The status of the state-mandated covered salt shed at the Transfer Station was discussed. The shed's purpose would be to conserve salt and protect the environment. Although the town has approved the funds, the Select Board would like to condition the project on receiving state funds.

Various repairs to Town Hall were discussed, including the bathroom ceiling fan and the handrail for the front porch. These issues are being addressed.

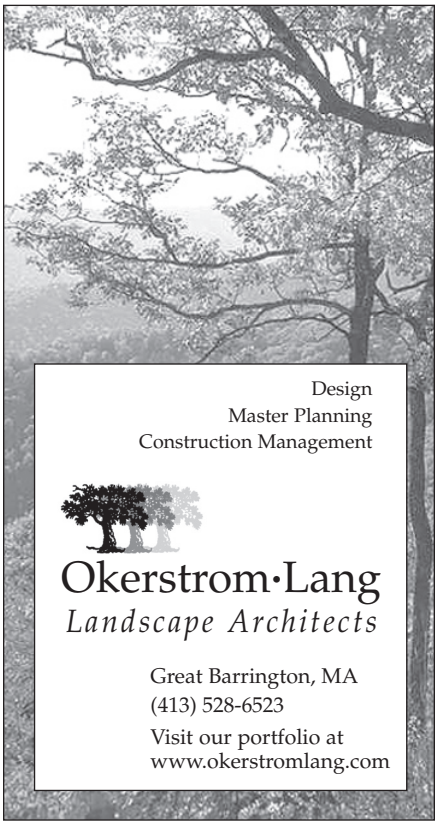
There was a discussion regarding creating policies for work done and for existing stone walls in town right of ways. It was agreed to contact the town counsel before any policies were established to find out who was responsible. There was also a question about who is responsible for damage to personal property on town property if a motor vehicle collides with a fence or stone wall that is in a town right of way. Forbes said that the person responsible for the accident is usually charged for any cleanup and replacement costs.

Police Department

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported that an incident occurred involving a disturbed person on Friday, May 2, that required assistance from the Great Barrington Police Department and the State Police. A section of Pixley Road was blocked off for several hours, but the incident ended peacefully with a Section 12 transfer. The Police Department and everyone involved were commended for a job well done. Maynard Forbes was concerned about the State Police's request to use Monterey Highway Department trucks to block off intersections during the incident and will discuss the issue with Chief Backhaus.

A group of concerned citizens met with Chief Backhaus and the Select Board regarding possible inappropriate behavior by a Monterey Police Officer at the Monterey General Store. The officer received a five-day suspension without pay and a six-month probation. Some of the citizens present questioned whether this was enough response to such inappropriate action by a person in uniform. The residents and Board agreed that it is a very sensitive matter. The Board agreed that once the uniform is put on there is a zero tolerance policy, but said the Board has to make their decisions based on the evidence presented from the investigation (which is not public) and procedures and processes set forth in the town's sexual harassment and personnel policies.

The Monterey Police Department responded to the following calls during the month: a call from Kinne's Grove apologizing for fill inadvertently dumped on a neighbor's property; false alarms on Stevens Lake and Bidwell Road; two domestic calls; mutual aid from Great Barrington; two complaints at the courthouse for non-payment of false alarm fines; a loose dog near the General Store; a question about dock removal; a motor vehicle accident on Route 23; a domestic call on Pixley Road; a false alarm at the Town Hall; assistance with an eviction on Hupi Road; assistance to a resident on Pixley Road; an incident at Gould Farm. And one item from April was unreported in the *News* but should have been: during



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the annual salamander crossing on Route 57, complaints were received about people standing in the road with flashlights.

This and That

At the May 5th Select Board meeting Wayne Burkhart was elected as the chair.

Scott Jenssen was asked by members of the Parks Commission to allow Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe to sign for packages for them without accepting responsibility for the package (in case it is damaged, missing items or the wrong items) and to leave packages in the hallway of the Town Hall. The Select Board asked Parks Commission Chair Leroy Thorpe to send a letter from the commission at their next meeting stating that they are in agreement with this, but Leroy came in and gave his verbal agreement.

At the same meeting the Select Board noted that Babe Ruth league games had started weeks ago at Greene Park, and that no public restroom was available for players and fans. The Board and Director of Operations Maynard Forbes directed Noe to call Mt. Everett Sanitation and have a porta-potty delivered to Green Park. Leroy Thorpe concurred with the decision, but said the one for the beach would not be delivered until summer begins. The porta-potty was delivered to Greene Park the same day.

Thorpe and the Board also discussed parking problems on the basketball court. When there are other events, people will park on the basketball court, preventing its use. This will be discussed at the next Parks Commission meeting.

Janet Laudenslager, Chair of the Stevens Lake Homeowners' Association, told the Select Board that the association had approved funding to repair their road, and she picked up an RDA form to file with the Conservation Commission so they could proceed.

Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe reported that on several occasions the Town Clerk was not available when needed to file required forms.

This year's Second Homeowners' Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 12, at the Monterey Firehouse.

LakeFest will be held on August 16.

— Sue Protheroe

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Maggie Leonard

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 3rd, was preceded by a Special Town Meeting that began at 9:15 a.m. The purpose of the Special Town meeting was to see if the Town would vote to transfer the sum of $34,852 from Free Cash to pay for the additional costs of the school operating budget using the statutory method of assessment (vs. the alternate method that had been used until Sheffield voted last year to no longer honor that part of the school district agreement). Select Board chair Jon Sylbert reminded the meeting that all the towns in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) must ratify the method of assessment, statutory or alternate, every year at Town Meeting. Stefan Grotz, a citizen and former selectman in Monterey, stated that he was voting against using the statutory method "in principle." Grotz said, "An agreement was made by all the towns in the district in good faith, and Sheffield has canned it. I was really offended by what Sheffield did." Fred Chapman, a member of the Board of Appeals, questioned the move as well: "How can the DOE [Department of Education] override this agreement when it was agreed upon by all the towns? We should sue Sheffield." After these complaints were aired, the majority of citizens voted to approve the funding in order to let the SBRSD and the member towns get on with their business and budgets.

The Annual Town Meeting began at 9:30 with moderator Mark Makuc gaveling the group to order and reading the warrant. Article 1 is the election of the officers of the Town, and the results are as follows: Board of Appeals for five years is Fred Chapman; Board of Assessors for three years is Bob Lazzarini; Board of Health for three years is John Makuc; Cemetery Committee for three years is Tom Haugh; Finance Committee for three years is Michael Storch; two Library Trustees for three years, Laurie Shaw and Linda Thorpe; Moderator for one year, Mark Makuc; Park Commission for three years Chandler Crawford; Park Commission for one year Bridget Krans; Planning Board

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for five years Alan Salamon; Planning Board for three years Larry Klein; Planning Board for one year John Sellew; and Tree Warden for one year, Roger Tryon.

Article 2 asked that the Town be allowed to exempt from Proposition $2^1/_2$ the amount required to purchase a Mack Truck and a 3/4-ton pickup truck, and the exemption was approved. Article 3 was to hear and act on the reports of all Officers, Agents, and Committees of the Town and it was quickly approved. Article 4 was to vote on the salaries of various Town Officers: Select Board Chair $4300; Select Board 2nd $4300; Select Board 3rd $4300; Assessors Chair $4000; Assessors 2nd $4000; Assessors 3rd $4000; Board of Health Chair $500; Board of Health 2nd $500; Board of Health 3rd $500. James Bracken, a former member of the Board of Assessors, questioned the need for a stipend for the Board of Assessors. Bracken stated, "In my last term we were about to remove the stipend, and at that time it was $1200!" Board of Assessors member Bob Gauthier countered that when he had joined the Board of Assessors a few years ago it was in a shambles: "This is not the same Board of Assessors. All the assessors have taken the University of Massachusetts course. We have completely organized the Assessors office, there are new maps, everything runs better, and we as a town need a functional well-trained Board of Assessors." The citizens of Monterey must have agreed because Article 4, with all the salaries, passed unanimously.

Article 5 was the big budget article to see if the Town would appropriate money and transfer money for the various line items listed on the Warrant. Moderator Mark Makuc read the line items and requested that any items in question be marked by calling out "hold," and the items in question would be addressed after the reading of the article. There was a hold on line item 151, Town Counsel and Town Counsel expenses, which were $10,000 and $1,500 respectively. Ozzie Dugan questioned the money based on a statement earlier from Select Board Chair Jon Sylbert, who said that in order to iron out the school district woes, the Town might need to hire additional counsel because Town Counsel Jeremiah Pollard has a conflict of interest. Dugan asked, "Why are we paying all this money when Town Counsel has all these conflicts of interest?" Selectman Sylbert noted that "some towns have hired lawyers in Boston and they still have conflicts of interest." Sylbert also added, "If the Town does go to court for the school district, this money would not cover it anyway." Dugan pursued the subject: "The lawyers job is to interpret the law. Where is the conflict in that? He should do his job." Town Counsel Pollard countered, "My firm [Hannon, Lerner] and I represent the Town of Sheffield. This is a direct conflict of interest. I would be happy to cite the specific laws about this if anyone is interested."

Maggie Leonard

Jon Sylbert

There was a hold on line 176, Board of Appeal expenses, because the numbers were transposed: $1200 was supposed to be $2100. Virgil Stucker requested a hold on item 210, Police Expenses. Stucker cited the headline in that day's *Berkshire Eagle* newspaper "Siege in Monterey" and requested that the Police Department receive additional funds to cover training for managing a psychiatric crisis. Moderator Mark Makuc reminded Stucker that he needed to state an amount of money, and Stucker stated that $2500 should be added to the budget. Dean Amidon asked if Police Chief Gareth Backhaus wanted the funds. Chief Backhaus responded that the Police Department is always open to receiving funds for training, but added that it was hard to imagine how anything would have been different in that specific situation since firearms were involved. Dan Moriarty stated that he would like to commend Chief Backhaus for a job well done. "I'm not sure what kind of training you can get for $2500, but if we can get training that would assist them in making good decisions then $2500 is not a lot of money." Stucker suggested that the Town and the Police Department seek training from Berkshire Mental Health, and added that he would be happy to assist in coordinating with the Police Department. Stucker stated, "There are methods for diffusing psychiatric situations that can be very helpful." Chief Backhaus noted that the department participates in a suicide prevention course. Michael Guthrie, a citizen of Monterey and also the director of Main Street Center for Human Resources, advocated for the training, adding "These are difficult times and we may see more of this kind of thing."

There was a hold on item 310 (for all of you who have made it this far and are following along on your Warrant), the operating expenses for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Select Board chair Jon Sylbert put a hold on this in order to explain the increase, which is approximately $100,000. Sylbert stated that this amount represents two salaries of $50,000 each that are being added to

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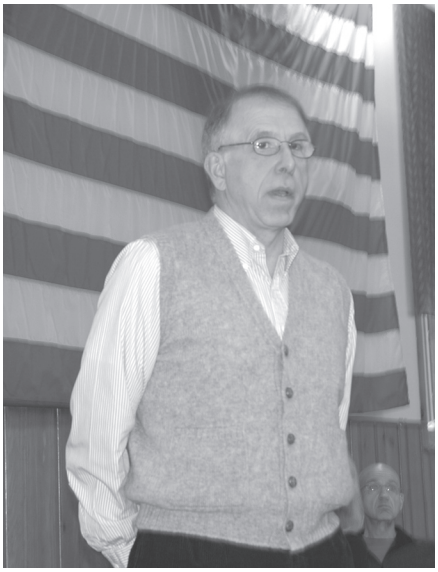
assure that the class size in the SBRSD stays at 20 or under.

There was a hold on item 510, Board of Health expenses, by Stephen Enoch, a member of the Board of Health. Enoch requested that the $600 request be changed to $1000 in order to have an additional $400 to hold a blood drive in Monterey.

Steve McAlister put a hold on item 531, Berkshire South Regional Community Center. McAlister, who is on the board of the Community Center, thanked Monterey on behalf of the Center for its support. He also noted that Berkshire South employs 100 people and serves all area towns. Everyone had had their say on the budget, and Article 5 was passed as amended.

Georgiana (Gige) O'Connell took the floor to discuss Article 6, to see if the Town would vote to discontinue the Monterey School. The school referred to is the one-room schoolhouse in the center of Monterey that hosts the Monterey Kindergarten. O'Connell made a plea to keep the school in Monterey and added that Alford and Housatonic had been talked out of their town schools and that they regretted it. Karen Shreefter said, "We've heard that we are trying to keep class sizes small. We have a great school here in town. Why isn't it being marketed better?" SBRSD outgoing Superintendent Valerie Spriggs said, "We ran two ads, one generic and one specific to Monterey, and there was no response. This year there are five students."



Maggie Leonard

Steve McAlister

Rosemary McAlister said that her family has adopted a child with special needs who was attending school in New Marlborough, and now attends the kindergarten in Monterey. She said that although there were no special services or programs in Monterey, "Mrs. Andersen and Mrs. Twing have done a tremendous job." McAlister went on to say, "Socialization is important, but in large numbers it can be negative and overwhelming for certain children." She also added that New Marlborough and Sheffield discouraged her from considering the Monterey School. Lisa Smyle, a Monterey resident with two school-aged children, said, "The population fluctuates. Now that class size is small, next year it will be larger. The town knows how valuable the school is." Muriel Lazzarini, a former Select Board member, said, "It's up to us to fund the school, not populate it!" Gary Shaw, another Monterey School proponent, said, "Don't close the school, it would be really short-sighted." Mary Makuc reluctantly took the floor: "I hate public speaking, but I really love the Monterey School. We definitely should not close it!" Linda Thorpe weighed in with some empirical evidence: "I've done the census for the past 15 years. In 2003 there was a low birth rate in town. The enrollment will go up." The citizens of Monterey unanimously voted to maintain the operation of the Monterey School. It was a total love-fest and there was barely a dry eye in the house.

Articles 7 through 17, mostly special appropriations requests were passed without discussion. Article 18 was to see if the Town would appropriate $4000 for a survey of the Town Beach. Selectman Jon Sylbert explained that it has been difficult to find old surveys, especially since the county government disbanded and many documents cannot be found. Dean Amidon, who owns property adjacent to the Town Beach, asked if the survey was to determine if a boat ramp could be installed at the beach. Sylbert replied, "No. The Boat Ramp Committee is looking to provide public access and has looked at several different sites, both in the large part of the lake and the small part of the lake. Also, the Department of Fish and Wildlife won't fund a boat ramp at a public beach." Jules Dahlman, a Monterey resident, opined, "This is throwing $4000 into an empty hole." "On the contrary" countered Sylbert, "This would provide some kind

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of documentation on which to base our decision." Town Counsel Jeremiah Pollard weighed in: "There is a high level of uncertainty around this situation. A surveyor has methods for finding these old documents." Article 18 was passed.

Article 19 was to see if the Town would vote to transfer from stabilization the amount of $42,500 to extend the Corashire Cemetery Road. Dan Moriarty, from the Finance Committee, explained the proposal using a landscape design plan as a visual aid. It showed a road that goes straight, forms a circle, and then goes straight for a bit more before it ends. Moriarty explained that the renovation would provide 500 additional plots and the circle was designed to accommodate hearses and other large vehicles. Moriarty also added "If we put this off we can anticipate prices to go higher." Laurily Epstein asked if the cemetery was full. "Almost," responded Linda Thorpe, who is on the Cemetery Committee. Karen Shreefter asked, "Why do we have to get rid of so many trees?" Select Board member Scott Jensen responded, "As a board we discussed saving the old growth trees, and keeping them for shade; that is in this plan." Cemetery Committee member Steve Pullen noted that he had just lost a 147-year-old elm: "There is a balance between taking trees down when their time has come in order to prevent damage to the cemetery that can be costly." Article 19 was passed.

Article 26, to see if the Town would vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws and adopt a Common Driveway Bylaw, was tabled in a surprise move by Dean Amidon. Amidon stated that the bylaw proposal was too long to be adequately addressed at the Annual Town Meeting, and suggested that it be considered at a Special Town Meeting. There was a voice vote, and then a hand count, and the article was tabled.

Article 27 was a proposal to see if the Town would accept a citizen petition in favor of having an elected School Committee instead of the current appointed positions. Jon Sylbert clarified that in order for the proposal to go into effect it had to be approved by all five towns in the school district. Article 27 was passed. (The other four towns in the district did approve the change, so it will be implemented.)

Article 28 was another citizen petition requesting that the Town raise and appropriate $10,000 for the Lake Buel Watershed Committee to research and develop a long-term program to remediate the frequent and dangerous flooding of Lake Buel into Monterey homes. Dan Moriarty, whose property was threatened in the last bout of flooding, described children playing in a living room knee-deep in water and stated, "It's a health and safety issue. We have had severe flooding in the past few years. Unfortunately the effect is on the Monterey side and the remedy is on the New Marlborough side. I will be making an appeal to the New Marlborough voters shortly." Stan Ross suggested that the voters make the appropriation contingent upon contributions from New Marlborough. Ozzie Dugan stated, "We have an obligation to take care of this whether the other town will agree or not. It's a health issue!" Fred Vorck stated that he agreed with Ozzie: "These are Monterey residents and they need our help." Muriel Lazzarini stood and said, in a somewhat amazed tone that drew a few chuckles, "I agree with Ozzie too! I think that as Montereyans we should support other people in our town who are suffering." Bonner McAllester asked, "Is this going to be a flood control device that will be turned into weed control and a drawdown proposal?" Moriarity said, "The purpose is to regain control over the flooding while accommodating the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Environmental Protection. We have the support of Representative Pignatelli and the Department of Health. We have also enlisted the aid of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission." Police Chief Gareth Backhaus recalled that during the last flooding he worked with both FEMA and MEMA: "These are the kinds of projects that MEMA likes to work with." Sally Pullen asked if under this plan the Town would have an opportunity to vote on the method used for the flood control. Moriarty responded, "Sure." James Bracken noted, "We don't get to vote on if the septic tanks around Lake Buel overflow into the lake when it floods—they do." Article 28 passed.

The last article on the warrant, Article 32, was to see if the Town would agree to establish a minimum fair cash value required for personal property to be assessed, and further to establish such minimum fair cash value at $10,000 beginning July 1, 2008. Assessor Bob Lazzarini explained that this would raise taxes 2 cents, and that a family now paying $1000 would pay $1004 under this plan. He also reiterated that properties valued at under $330,000 would be exempt from the tax. Article 32 was passed.

The Annual Town Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

— Maggie Leonard

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Maggie Leonard

Monterey Veterans at Veterans Memorial Park, Memorial Day 2008

Town of Monterey Veterans, May 26, 2008

Amidon, Dean P.
Andrus, Thomas E.
Banner, Michael J.
Bertellli, Raymond F.
Bhark, Philip Dr.
Bounous, Eugene A.
Butler, Deborah L.
Chait, Peter
Champigny, Carl E.
Champigny, Earl P.
Cherneff, Martin H.
Coddington, Raymond
Crotty, Francis P.
D'Amato, Frank
Dahlman, Jules
Daponte, Joseph
Dean, Allen
Delmolino, John J., Jr.
Dugan, Osborne E.
Eget, John Francis Jr
Emmons, George B.
Funk, Arthur J.
Goetschius, James R. Jr.
Gero. Rudolph J.
Greenhut, Martin
Guthrie, Michael L.
Hamm, Gordon L.
Hayes, Arnold A.
Heath, Kenneth R., Sr.
Heath, James
Hoogs, Robert Eaton
Haugh, Thomas B.
Jenkins, Ian Ross
Klein, Lawrence B.
Leavitt, Aaron M.
Leavy, Howard
Leprevost, Peter C.
Marsh, William P.
Mielke, William E. Jr.
Newinski, Daniel N.
Nourse, Howard E.
Ohman, Çonrad C
Pederson, Alf B.
Pratt, Arnold L.
Pullen, Steven W.
Rausch, Robert J.
Rice, Kim L.
Ritter, Walter
Rochedieu, Robert N.
Shapiro, David
Scheffey, Lewis
Scherer, Paul J.
Sheridan, Richard Sr.
St. John, Joseph E
Sternberg, Morton
Thomson, Jared Lyman
Thorpe, Leroy E.
Tryon, Richard D.
Walsh, Brook D.
Warner, Cheryl L.
Weber, Leonard J.
Wool, Nicolas F.
Zagurski, Felix

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Lake Buel District Meeting

The Lake Buel Restoration and Preservation District held its annual meeting at the Monterey Meetinghouse on Saturday, May 24. Assisted by the large number of proxies sent in by the proprietors and solicited by the Prudential Committee, a quorum was achieved, and the meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Paula Hatch.

Forty-eight people were in attendance, and thirty-six proxies were received.

The budget was passed as written, with the exception of a 5 percent increase for the District Clerk and the District Treasurer.

The item that drew heated discussion was a citizen's petition to transfer $10,000 from the Overlay Reserve Fund to the Watershed Committee to research and develop a long-term program to remediate the frequent and hazardous flooding of homes on an around Lake Buel. Dan Moriarty made a presentation on how the $10,000 the district allocated last year to the Lake Buel Watershed Committee (Dan Moriarty, Pete Hagen, Stephen Rose, Frank Ashen, Don Batista, and Sue Protheroe, secretary) had been used. Gary Swanson, an engineer engaged to research the lake flooding, produced an extensive report identifying the causes and conditions contributing to the flooding of homes surrounding the lake and in adjacent communities such as Hartsville and downstream of the lake. A three-year permit to control the beaver dams at the outlet was approved by the New Marlborough Conservation Commission, and a temporary water flow control device was repaired at the lake outlet.

Gary Swanson's report, along with supporting documentation, will be presented to state and local authorities. The Watershed Committee has been successful in creating a collaboration with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission with the goal of reaching solutions to the greater watershed issues. A proposal will be submitted for state (MEMA) and federal (FEMA) funding later this year. The committee also received the support of State Senator Benjamin Downing and State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, and received a commitment of $10,000 each from the towns of Monterey and New Marlborough at their 2008 town meetings.

Chris Hassett, a Prudential Committee member, felt that the initial $10,000 given in 2007 was a large enough commitment, especially considering that the lake residents would also be contributing additional tax money as part of the $10,000 allocated by Monterey and New Marlborough. Chris Cobb voiced his opinion that most of the lake flooding occurred on low-lying areas that were part of the floodplain and should have been expected. Stephen Rose said that every time the lake floods, twenty or so septic systems and wells are also overcome, creating health concerns for both the lake and the residents. David Logan voiced his opposition to the petition.

Paula Hatch emphasized that the Prudential Committee, while opposed to the petition, still supports the mission of the Lake Buel Watershed Committee and hopes that even if the article did not pass the Watershed Committee would continue its efforts. In further discussion from the floor, concerns were voiced about the level of the lake, with residents feeling it is now too low. There was also concern that any extensive remediation project would prove unworkable.

A vote was called, and the petition was defeated, 28–32, so the district will make no additional allocation this year to the Watershed Committee.

In other business, Sue Protheroe proposed that three Lake Buel Watershed signs be placed at strategic locations, similar to the Lake Garfield Watershed signs already in place. Maynard Forbes has offered to place the signs in the proper places for a cost of $360. The motion was carried.

— Sue Protheroe

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Community Potlucks End for Season

The final Monterey Potluck for the season was a resounding success, with 35 people in attendance, a speaker with a locally significant historical topic, and good food enjoyed by all. Ralmon Jon Black, the Chairman of the Williamsburg (Massachusetts) Historical Commission, spoke fervently about the New England potash industry in the 1800s, which he has researched extensively. He enlightened the audience on a subject that has been left out of the history books. We are very grateful to him for his willingness to share this with us.

We will be starting up the potluck suppers again in the fall. Thanks to everyone who helped with setting up and taking down of tables, laundering tablecloths, washing dishes, and just attending. If anyone has suggestions for speakers, please call Barbara Dahlman at 528-8287 or Kyle Pierce at 528-9213. Have a great summer!

— Kyle Pierce

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Upcoming Cultural Council Events

June 8: Nature Walk

Catch the end of spring and beginning of summer with a nature walk on June 8 led by Bonner McAllester (see ad, p. x). The group will meet at the Land Trust property on Mt. Hunger Road at 10:30 a.m. Space is limited, so be sure to preregister by calling Bonner at 528-5134.

July 27: Concert

On Sunday, July 27, at 4:00 p.m. the Copper Street Brass Quintet will perform in the Meetinghouse. Watch for more information in the July *Monterey News* and check out the group's website: www.copperstreetbrass.com/aboutus.html. Laury Epstein is the Cultural Council contact person for this event (528-0577).

August 16: Printmaking Workshop

Learn the art of printmaking with Adrienne Lederman on Saturday, August 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the lower level of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Lederman has been printmaking for over twenty-five years and has taught art at the Lowell School in New York City, the Art Sparks program in Pittsfield, the Adult Education program at Fairleigh Dickenson College in New Jersey, and the Luis Noyes School in Sudbury, Massachusetts. Her work has been exhibited in New York City, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Melbourne, Australia. The class is limited to ten people, so please preregister by calling Laury Epstein at 528-0577.

Monterey School Seeking Students, Volunteers

The Monterey School still has openings for the next school year (2008–09). It will be a combined Kindergarten and First Grade (K–1). The program at this unique one-room schoolhouse offers an excellent education, including language arts, math, social studies, science, art, gym, music, and Spanish. Where else will a five- or six-year-old learn to recite Dickens and Frost, learn about the continents, walk to the town library for story time, learn to ice skate, get a lunch from the General Store, have a very small class size (ten or under), be introduced to Spanish ...

In short, with Susan Andersen as head teacher and Belinda Twing as an aide, the students learn to love learning.

If you want to register your child call Mary Edwards, Principal, SBRSD, at 413-229-8754.

Students from other towns may choice in. They just need to provide transportation. Monterey students are picked up at their homes or very close by.

How You Can Help

We are looking for people interested in helping to market the Monterey School. Do you want to volunteer to help write/design a brochure, press release etc.? We will also be looking for people to distribute brochures, and we need to do this in a timely fashion. The PTA will fund the paper and ink. Please call Mary Makuc at 528-5834.

— Mary Makuc

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Attorney At Law

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Monterey Library Notes

Poetry Slam

We had forty-one people at our poetry slam, including the thirteen poets who performed their works. After three rounds the winner was Joanne Spies of Stockbridge, second place was Kit Patten of Monterey, and third went to Kent Godfrey of Monterey. Our slam was emceed by Vanessa Vargas from Northampton. We would like to thank everyone who came, especially those who performed, judged, and kept the time and scores. We also need to thank the Historical Society for letting us use their space. Thanks to the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System for sponsoring the region slams and the final for the region. Thanks to the Monterey General Store for the refreshments. Thanks to Mike and Maureen Banner, the General Store again, Ellen Grenadier, and the Bookloft for the wonderful prizes. A final thanks to the Monterey Library Trustees, who paid for the event with booksale money! The library is hoping to sponsor some poetry readings in the near future—if you are interested and have ideas please contact the librarian.

Youth Book Discussion Groups

All three of our youth reading groups wrapped up their year with a pizza party and their own poetry slam. They want to thank the Library Trustees and the Monterey Cultural Council for sponsoring this program. *Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan won Monterey's vote for the Massachusetts Children's Book of the Year, and it won the state honors as well.

Mark Makuc

Monterey Library Poetry Slam winners (l.–r.): Kit Patten, Monterey (2nd); Joanne Spies, Stockbridge (1st); Kent Godfrey, Monterey (3rd); Judah Piepho, Monterey (5th); Tess Reed (4th); and emcee Vanessa Vargas.

Book Sale

Our annual book sale is approaching! The Trustees have adopted some new policies about donations. No mildewed stained, or damaged materials will be accepted. No foreign language books, condensed books, technical, or textbooks will be accepted. No magazines and puzzles. Finally, donations will not be accepted between July 15th and August 1st. Please bring your donations to the library before July 15, and we look forward to seeing you the last Saturday in July on the library lawn so we can raise money to sponsor events like the Poetry Slam.

Summer Programs

Our summer reading program, Wild Reads @ Your Library, will start in July. It's being sponsored by the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System, as well as the Monterey Library, the Monterey General Store, and the Monterey Cultural Council. Save the date, Saturday, July 5, at 10:30 a.m. for a return of the wildly popular magician Greg McAdams, who will kick off our Saturday morning programs for the summer. More details to follow as we invite back other favorites and also some new programs! See you on Saturday mornings in the Monterey Library for some wild times!

Also save the date of Monday, July 17, at 7 p.m. when the Sisters in Crime will return. This year the topic will be "Using What You Know or What You'd Like to Know." The authors will be Jessica Speart, Sarah Smith, and a Brother in Crime, Gary Braver. Books by these authors are available in the library and of course from all over CWMARS online. Stop in and check them out!

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

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Library Recent Acquisitions:

DVDs

27 Dresses
Days of Heaven
Air I Breathe
National Treasure II
Night and Fog
National Geographic: Human Footprint
Darfur Now
The Red Balloon
Awake

Adult Fiction

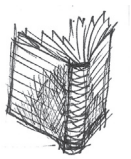
Attachment, Isabel Fonseca
Child 44, Tom Smith
Executive Privilege, Philip Margolin
Fever, Bill Pronzini
Triumph of Caesar, Steven Saylor
20 Wishes, Debbie Macomber
Certain Girls, Jennifer Weiner
Host, Stephenie Meyer
Love the One You're With, Emily Giffin
Unaccustomed Earth, Jhumpa Lahiri
Where Are You Now,
Mary Higgins Clark

Nonfiction

Counselor, Ted Sorensen
Dog Man, Martha Sherrill
Hudson: America's River,
Frances Dunwell
Bonk, Mary Roach
Home, Julie Andrews
Audition, Barbara Walters
Losing It, Valerie Bertinelli
Moyers on Democracy, Bill Moyers
A Voyage Long and Strange,
Tony Horwitz
Clinton in Exile, Carol Felsenthal

Children's

Outcast, Erin Hunter
Smiles to Go, Jerry Spinelli
Airhead, Meg Cabot
Eyewitness Forensic Science
Eyewitness Vote
Wolves Are Back, Jean Craighead George
Yikes Wow Yuck: Fun Experiments for Your First Science Fair, Elizabeth Harris



Youth Poetry Performance Is a Grand Slam

The Monterey Library Youth Book Discussion Group capped its third year of reading with the inaugural Monterey Library Youth Poetry Slam on May 12. The poetry performance event, held in the Monterey Meetinghouse basement, was a junior version of the Monterey Library Poetry Slam, held two days prior. Out of the (approximately) dozen entries, five were collaborative, and six contestants participated in two entries.

A panel of five judging teams rated the contestants from one to five on the quality of the poem and the nature and quality of the performance. They combined these two scores for a cumulative score. The teams presented these ballots to scorekeeper Morwenna Boyd, who eliminated the highest and lowest scores that the judges awarded to each contestant. She then added the three remaining scores together to form the total score for each entry. Franny Huberman, the book group facilitator and poetry slam organizer, provided prizes for every participant.

Michaela Bashour's performance of a selection from Shakespeare's *Macbeth* took top honors in the book group's middle division, which participates in Massachusetts Book Award voting. Winners also took home prizes in two other divisions, the young readers division and the seventh grade and up division. The poetry slam accompanied the book group's annual pizza party, for which the Monterey General Store provided food.

Although the slam was very similar to those held as part of the national competition, there were three differences. Unlike its national counterpart, in the Youth Poetry Slam, participants were not required to recite original poetry, the winner did not move on to a regional level, and the contest lasted just one round. Despite no requirement for original poetry in the slam, Gabriella Makuc, Sam O'Brient, and Lucy Spieler performed a combined five impressive original poems. Contrarily to the slam's official title, adults also participated, but they were only present when in tandem with youth.

A supportive audience provided an encouraging atmosphere as it clapped, cheered, and congratulated every contestant. Overall, the youth poetry slam was an engaging, exciting, professional event that was rich with outstanding talent. Those involved, including myself, will in all probability look forward to future youth poetry slams.

— Jonah Carlson

The writer participated in the poetry slam.

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McLaughlin-Wilson Fund Awards Scholarships to 12 Monterey Students

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation announced that the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund awarded a total of $76,500 in scholarships to twelve students from Monterey. The fund, created in 1994 by Edith Wilson in memory of her longtime friend Marjorie McLaughlin, supports the young people of Monterey as they pursue a college education.

First-time scholarships for undergraduate fall enrollment were awarded to:

- Oona Sellew, Ithaca College
- Christopher Dinan, Johnson & Wales College

Renewal scholarships for undergraduate studies were awarded to:

- Annabel Edelman, Hampshire College
- Barbara McAlister, Mt. Holyoke
- Dinah Mielke, Endicott College
- Emily Shaw, Roger Williams
- Nicole Campanale, Temple University
- Kristen Dempsey, Eckerd College
- Tarsi Dunlop, Middlebury College
- Jesse Johnston, Northeastern Univ.
- Bridget Mendel, Northwestern Univ.
- Christopher Tryon, Wentworth Institute of Technology

A committee of Monterey residents reviewed applications and awarded scholarships based on academic achievement, community service, desire to achieve academic and life goals, and financial need.

The next deadline for scholarship applications is May 1, 2009. Applications are available online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/grants-scholarships.html or by calling 413-528-8039.

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund is an endowment of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the community foundation serving Berkshire County, MA; Columbia County and northeast Dutchess County, NY; and northwest Litchfield County, CT.

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Bidwell House Summer Interns

The Bidwell House Museum has announced the recipients of internships in museum studies for the summer season. Dwight Kelly of Sheffield and Lee will receive the Berkshire Bank Foundation's $1,000 scholarship in colonial history museum studies. The Berkshire Bank has an educational initiative providing young people with internship experiences that benefit the wider community, as visitors to the museum will hear the results of the student's research and training.

Dwight Kelly is entering senior year at Monument Mountain Regional High School in Great Barrington. He has worked at the 1753 Regulation House in Williamstown and has been a docent in period costume at the Bidwell House on a two-week internship in 2007. This summer he plans a bicycle trip through the original thirteen colonies in late July and early August.

At the Bidwell House, Dwight plans to research the connection Colonel Henry Knox had with the Bidwell land; it is known that Knox traversed Monterey with his Fort Ticonderoga cannon on the way to Boston in the winter of 1776. It is also known Reverend Adonijah Bidwell "killed beef cattle and fed the troops"; it is not yet known if Knox's troops were the ones fed by the minister, who was a Patriot throughout the American Revolution.

Kelly is a member of the National Honor Society and was past president of his high school's Amnesty International chapter. He has been a volunteer on the Student Faculty Forum, advisory to the Principal and a volunteer on trail work and cleanup operations on the Housatonic River.

The George Scribner $500 internship is awarded to Morwenna Boyd of Monterey. This will be Morwenna's third summer as a volunteer and internship recipient at the Bidwell House. Homeschooled, she is an accomplished student of classical guitar, which she plans to pursue in the future. She is in her sophomore year of high school. Her sister, Ana, will begin a volunteer and internship cycle this summer. Ana will be a $200 intern in August. Morwenna and Ana were the subjects of Joanna Jennings prize-winning photography which elucidated Bidwell House themes in 2007. Miss Jennings is the Assistant to the Director at the Bidwell House and will start her fourth season as docent and graphic artist.

Other recipients of the $200 scholarship, which provides training in colonial history, are Jonah Carlson of Monterey and Sarah Wing of Waltham. Jonah is a home-schooled eighth grader who has been interested in colonial history since visiting Plymouth Plantation and seeing the reconstruction of the *Mayflower*; he has also visited the Colonel Ashley House, Old Sturbridge Village, and the Bidwell House. Sarah Wing is entering eighth grade at Dana Hall in Wellesley. Her family has owned a summer cottage in Monterey for five generations; it was built by her great, great grandfather. The local history of Monterey has been a fascination of hers, and she would like to "spark an interest in history in others about the Berkshires in Colonial times."

Astrid Brown of Sandisfield will return to the Bidwell House as an office volunteer. She has had two internships at the museum in consecutive summers and has spent the last school year in Tokyo, Japan. She and her mother, Michelle Arnot, will join the staff in July on their return. Leah Yates-Weisgal of New York City and Monterey is a junior volunteer docent and assistant to the Caretaker for the second season.

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Meetinghouse Calendar Coordinator Named

As caretakers of the Monterey Meetinghouse, the Monterey United Church of Christ Parish Council has named Mary Kate Jordan as calendar coordinator for events to be held in the building. This is in order to prevent disappointment over conflicting event schedules. If an event hasn't been actively confirmed with us and placed on our calendar for a specific date and time, the space may not actually be available when a community member arrives to set up for, or hold, the event.

"We all look forward to having the community calendar run smoothly," Jordan said. "If your group is hoping to gather at the Meetinghouse, contact me (528-5557 or emkate@earthlink.net) to see if the space is available for the event/date/time you hope to use it. Thanks you for your cooperation."

Call for Artists!

The Otis Cultural Council invites local artists and craftspeople to partake in the Otis Arts Festival as a venue to sell or display their work. The Arts Festival will be held on Saturday, August 9, 2008, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Farmington River Elementary School in Otis. The entry fee is $10 and must be paid with application. Applications are available at the Otis Town Hall bulletin board or by emailing otisculturalcouncil@gmail.com or calling 269-7232. Application deadline is June 30, 2008.

Friends of Lake Garfield

What's the latest on public boating access?
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How healthy is our lake?
Will there be a LakeFest 2008?
And, if so, will there be fireworks?

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Friends of Lake Garfield Meeting
Monterey Firehouse
Saturday, June 7, @ 9:30 a.m.

Bids Sought for Painting Monterey Library

The Trustees of the Monterey Public Library seek sealed bids for exterior painting of the library building. Bids must be received by June 14, 2008. Bidding contractors should be fully insured in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and all workers hired for the job must be paid prevailing wages, as determined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A list of current prevailing wages is available at the Library. The work should be started as soon as possible after July 1, 2008, and must be completed no later than November 1, 2008. Interested bidders should contact Library Director Mark Makuc at 413-528-3795 to arrange a time to view the library for preparing the bid

Paint/Oil Collections for South Berkshire Towns

CET will coordinate a collection of oil paint, stains, paint thinners, turpentine, and waste motor oil in Lenox and Great Barrington for South Berkshire Towns in the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative. Pre-registration with CET is suggested.

Saturday, June 14, 9 to 11:30 a.m., Great Barrington Recycling Center, Route 7 (across from Monument Mountain High School).

Latex paint will not be accepted at any events. Usable paint can be given away through freecycle.org or some nonprofits. Empty or dried up cans of latex paint can be disposed with the regular trash. Empty cans of oil-based paint, stains and solvents can be disposed with the regular trash as well.

To pre-register or for information about what can be brought to the collection, visit www.cetonline.org or email amandad@cetonline.org. Or call Amanda at 413-445-4556 ext. 17.

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Mute swan and white-throated sparrow (photos Stephen Rose)

Birds of All Feathers 2008

Lake Buel is a spring-fed natural lake that experiences no winter drawdown, and geographically is surrounded by mountains and acres of wetlands. This combination attracts many species of migratory and year-round birds alike. Located between East Mountain State Forest in Great Barrington and Beartown State Forest in Monterey, Lake Buel is a wildlife magnet. As I did last year, here is a winter and spring bird sightings list for 2008 on and around Lake Buel in Monterey. The number of repeat sightings, and new sightings is very encouraging.

So here goes. Herring gull, blue jay, red-breasted merganser, robin, red-winged blackbird, mourning dove, brown-headed cowbird, European starling, black-capped chickadee, common grackle, hairy woodpecker, Canada goose, bald eagle, American crow, downy woodpecker, wild turkey, slate-colored junco, pileated woodpecker, wood duck, song sparrow, common merganser, American goldfinch, turkey vulture, hooded merganser, swamp sparrow, white-breasted nuthatch, mute swan, white-throated sparrow, house finch, prairie warbler, tufted titmouse, great blue heron, tree swallow, yellow-shafted flicker, ring-necked duck, yellow warbler, white-crowned sparrow, yellow-rumped warbler, osprey, black-and-white warbler, barn swallow, rufous-sided towhee, chipping sparrow, rose-breasted grosbeak, northern raven, Baltimore oriole, spotted sandpiper, gray catbird, mallard, veery, and ruby-throated hummingbird.

Although there are many year-round birds, the migrating birds fascinate me. In the spring they fly hundreds, sometimes thousands, of miles north to breeding and feeding grounds. These passerby birds give you just a fleeting glimpse, sometimes once, maybe twice, and then they are gone, off to their intended destination. The clear water of Lake Buel is the draw, I am sure. And then in the fall, in a beautiful migratory pattern that has been happening for thousands of years, these birds fly back to their southern environmentally suitable winter destinations.

The warblers feed on budding trees and shrubs on the banks of the lake in the spring. The yellow warbler blends right into the forsythia in bloom. The bald eagle is seldom seen due to the vast territory and variety of food choice, but the osprey (and I believe there are two) has become a regular visitor to the lake, gliding high while looking for vulnerable fish. The rufous-sided towhee is a ground feeder and a quick sporadic hopper while foraging for insects and seeds. The barn swallows and tree swallows dart endlessly back and forth across the surface of the lake, feeding on flying insects. The great blue heron and spotted sandpiper hunt casually along the bank of the lake. Environmental preservation is just as important as ever. For our feathered friends as well as for us.

— Stephen Rose

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Moose Sighting

On Saturday, May 10, at about 9:15 in the morning I happened to step out my back door to see what looked like two chestnut colored horses running just inside the tree line. Hearing me, they stopped and stood quite still. It was then I realized that what I was really seeing were two moose!

They stood motionless. Believe it or not they actually blended into the forest, so much so if they hadn't moved again it would have been easy to miss them completely. It seemed as though they were coming down out of the state forest land behind my house and making their way toward the stream at the edge of the McAllester compound.

For me this was a magical sighting. We really do share our space with wondrous things.

Note: I looked up moose information on the Internet and discovered one fact we should all be aware of: We should NOT assume they are friendly because they don't run from us. They are unafraid and could attack and stomp until the threat ceases to move (i.e., plays dead OR is dead).

— Eileen Lawlor, Hupi Road

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Sandisfield Arts Center Events

Here's what's happening in June at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Unless otherwise noted, call 413-258-4100 or email info@sandisfieldartscenter.org for tickets and information.

An Evening with the Bard

Ben Luxon reads Shakespeare.
Saturday, June 7, 8 p.m.

William Shakespeare—the most famous writer in the world's literary history—but what do we really know about him? The man and his times illustrated by monologues and speeches from his plays was devised and is acted by Ben Luxon. Luxon was one of Britain's major international singers, performing at most of the world's major opera houses and with the leading symphony orchestras. He was an extremely versatile artist whose thirty-year career covered just about all styles and periods of vocal music. In the early 90s his career came to an end due to severe hearing loss, and in his "retirement" he has turned his attention to the spoken word. Along with his poetry readings he has, in the last year, performed King Lear with Walking the Dog Theater Company of Hudson, NY, in their Winter Festival of Youth series, and as the Ghost and the Grave Digger in their widely acclaimed production of *Hamlet*. Tickets $20.

Workshop: Alexander Technique with Betsy Polatin

Saturday, June 21, 10–12 a.m.

Betsy Polatin teaches the Alexander Technique, a unique, gentle hands-on approach to body movement, at Boston University's College of Fine Arts. Her background includes thirty-five years of movement education and performance as well as training in yoga, meditation, and the healing arts. Betsy has taught all over the United States and in India, Japan, and Korea. The Alexander Technique teaches us to become aware of the excess tensions and patterns of daily life that we scarcely even recognize, and reorganize ourselves to understand our true nature and potential. For reservations call either 617-277-2224 or 413-258-2820 or email bpolatin1@aol.com. Fee is $25.

Jack and the Beanstalk

Saturday, June 21: 6 p.m., Ice Cream Social; 7 p.m., Performance

Castle Street Theater Company presents a fun evening for the entire family (the young, the old and the in-between). This well-known, age-old fairytale is done in an entirely new and distinctive way. In this presentation, the Giant is allowed to make his own case and tell HIS side of the story. Funny, thrilling, and theatrically imaginative, it's "Jack and the Beanstalk" as you have never seen it before. Ice cream cones $3 each; admission $10 per person, Adults with children half price ($5). Children 14 and under are admitted free.

Sruli and Lisa: Klezmer!

Saturday, June 28, 8 p.m.

Sruli and Lisa play the clarinet, violin, accordion, base recorder, cello, and drum, and perform and teach Klezmer and Hasidic music and dance all over the country. They have been described as two people who sound like a whole orchestra and have performed with Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul, and Mary. Klezmer for Kids concerts are famous from coast to coast, and were created especially for the next generation of Klezmorim. Tickets $20.

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Culture, Perception, and the American Student

When discussing politics, or anything really, with my Singaporean friend from my international relations class, our conversations result in minor differences and surprises. My three-hour drive back and forth to Middlebury is shocking for her, because that is how long it takes to get across her entire country. The incoherence at times of U.S. politics is related to this reality, geography. The U.S. is huge and diverse, thus its politics reflect the variety and complexity of the size. However this is not necessarily an easy connection to make unless one has been there to experience it. Also living in the U.S. really does impact how one sees the rest of the world. What about perceptions of sovereignty? What does this concept imply, or how do citizens inside and outside the U.S. understand it? For students who come from countries where neighbors are less than friendly, it is a distinct concern. For Americans, well one of the American students put it best: we don't really think about it because we are not expecting Mexico or Canada to invade us tomorrow. Perhaps that is why Pearl Harbor for older generations, and more recently September 11th, hit us so hard. We do not expect our sovereignty to be so obviously challenged, on any level. When it is, it is an entirely new experience in reality and on a psychological level.

The United States' status as superpower in the world does allow Americans to remove themselves from such realities that are faced by much of the world, but how far away does that then take us from understanding the world we still live in? My Singaporean friend's perspective is that we are at times far too isolated and far too oblivious for our own good, and I can see where she might be coming from at times. This is not to say that the US government does not consider sovereignty; in fact we are giving up sovereignty when we join international treaties and institutions. Note our lack of support for the Kyoto Treaty (although that is not our only justification for pulling out), the International Criminal Court, or even sometimes the United Nations. By subjecting ourselves to a higher power, or institution, we lose some of our right to decide and take action.

How about perspectives on the European Union? I do not find the idea of a union of Europe to be such a terrible thing, but I do not live there, and therefore in a way my view is largely irrelevant. Public opinion of the European Union is not impressively high. In Great Britain it is consistently lower than most other EU countries. God forbid you mix Euros and pounds sterling accidently in your coin purse, and are then forced to sort through it in front of the British as I did last week coming back from Paris. I got the real life show of anti-EU sentiments: "Those are Euros," the Japanese cashier said and raised his nose at me. Well, yes thank you, I did actually know that. A charming smile and the American accent bought me a tiny little bit of slack, but I was highly amused, for although I knew the UK has the lowest levels of support, witnessing it personally was entirely different. The more I learn about the European Union, the more confused I get. I realize this is a generalization, but even to this day, despite fighting two world wars alongside each other, the British are not terribly fond of the French, and the French are far from enamored by the British. This was made much clearer to me as I made my first journey on the Eurostar between the two, yet ironically they do have something in common—very few of either are fond of U.S. government policies.

There is nothing like standing in line at the Stansted airport waiting to check into Ryan Air for a flight to Denmark and trying to eavesdrop on a conversation in a language—Danish in this case— that you do not understand. The group was laughing heartily and talking loudly. I was two people away from having to show my passport at the desk, so I went to reach into my pocket for it. At that precise moment, I heard distinctly, "axis of evil," and this time some chuckles and scoffs. I decided to wait until I was standing at the desk before pulling out my new and almost gaudy display of American patriotism to

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Ben Luxon reads from William Shakespeare:
An Evening with the Bard

Photo by Peggy Reeves

JUNE 21 6PM
$10. Adults with children $5. Free for children 14 & under.
Castle Street Theater presents:
Jack and the Beanstalk

JUNE 28 8PM $20
Sruli and Lisa
An Evening of Klezmer!

Workshop!
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June 21 10-Noon $25

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SAMUEL CLARKE

confirm my reservation. It was not that I was ashamed entirely, but it seemed like there are appropriate times to reveal where you are from and other times where letting it slide past unnoticed plays better to the situation.

Being abroad brings some things into clarity, but the world remains incredibly diverse and it gets more uncertain the more you know. Studying and understanding world differences from the wonderful bubble that is Middlebury can never truly give you these little nuances. The knowledge in the classroom cannot translate into real sensations and feelings, and these complicate things. You start asking, or at least I have, what does it mean to be American today? Certainly this is not the first time I've asked myself that, but it means something more now. Should I justify my government's choices, can I, or do I have to? I don't often; I find that I cannot fully do that. That does not mean I don't feel pride when thinking about my country; I am not ashamed to be an American in the general scheme of things, but I am disturbed when I see more clearly the subtle ways that animosity toward the US can materialize. Europeans make the distinction between government and people thankfully, but they also realize that the American people do speak through elections and that the politicians who represent us did not get to positions of authority entirely on their own. We are allowed to disagree with our government, and we have the right to voice our discontents. This is something I try never to forget, as many of my friends do come from countries where not so long ago dissent was not, or is still not, tolerated. Political views are different, and this spring, as I add a few more countries to my list of "been tos," I am going to soak in all the differences I can. The more I can experience subtle cultural differences, the more my own perceptions will evolve. In my humble opinion, as an American student abroad, that is perhaps the most fundamental form of education I can possibly hope for.

— Tarsi Dunlop

Otis & Sandisfield Host Veggie-Oil-Powered Concert

Songwriter/guitarist Jay Mankita will present a concert at the Otis Gazebo on Sunday, June 29, at 11 a.m. The show will feature Mankita's quirky and original songs and guitar work, followed by a short talk and demonstration on alternative energy, featuring Jay's vegetable oil-powered van, the "Veggie Voyager."

A New England–based activist for social and environmental justice, Mankita has been receiving kudos and attention from all corners of the folk and Americana music world, including from folk legend Pete Seeger, who says, "Come hear this guy.… I think he's one of the half-dozen best songwriters today!"

As a songwriter, Mankita combines humorous and serious material, addressing topical issues, but always in an entertaining way. A masterful guitar player, he blends traditional acoustic blues, ragtime, and swing styles with a quirky, original feel. Mankita has just finished his sixth recording, *Eat Like A Rainbow,* a song collection for children about healthy food. For more information about the man, his van, and his music, visit his website, at http://jaymankita.com.

This program is supported by dual grants from the Otis and Sandisfield Arts Councils, local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Dine Out to Support Local Farms!

Berkshire Grown's Restaurant Week, June 8–12, 2008, features twenty Berkshire Grown restaurants. Berkshire Grown restaurants offer a three-course prix fix dinner menu or lunch special featuring locally grown or produced foods for only $25.08 a meal. This promotion is offered exclusively to Berkshire Grown members at the following restaurants:

North County: Café Latino, Gramercy Bistro, The Williams Inn, Mezze Bistro + Bar.

Central County: Café Reva, Pittsfield Brew Works, ViVa.

South County: allium, Baba Louie's, Castle Street Café, Helsinki, Jack's Grill, John Andrews, Napa, Pearls, The Old Inn on the Green, The Red Lion Inn, Route 7 Grill, Stagecoach Tavern, Swiss Hutte.

Each member can bring one guest (total will be $50.16 for two dinners at the member price). This is a member benefit, as well as an enticement for new members to join. Anyone who wants to join Berkshire Grown can join at a participating restaurant during Restaurant Week, or call Berkshire Grown at 413-528-0041, or join online at www.berkshiregrown.org.

Berkshire Grown supports and promotes local agriculture as a vital part of a healthy Berkshire community, economy, and landscape.

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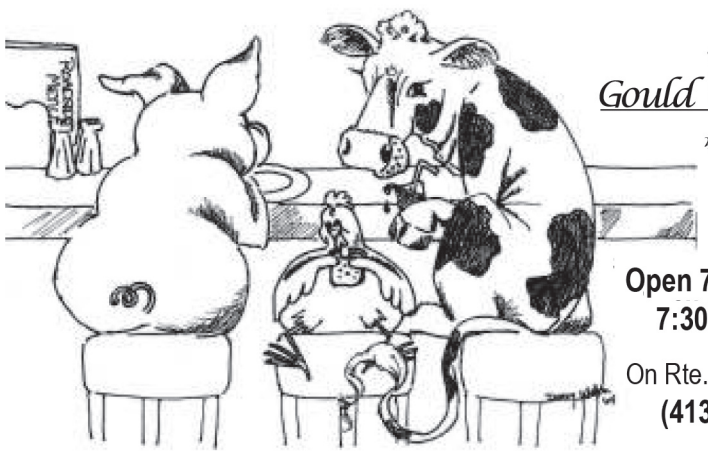

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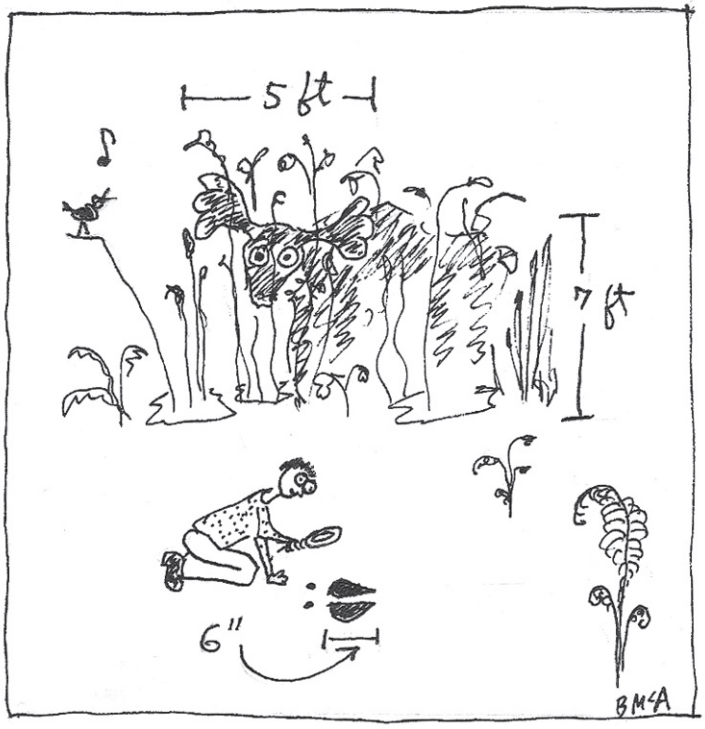
Moose Tracks: I'm a Believer

I must be the only person I know who has not seen a moose in Monterey. I would say "the moose," but I know one person who saw two at once, practically in my backyard. There are other things I haven't seen: for instance, a (or "the") mountain lion. Still, I am a believer. I believe so literally that it's about the same as if I had seen these big critters. I know they are around me and I know what they look like.

In the case of the moose singular or plural, I have at least seen the tracks. Generally I see one track in a muddy place, maybe right in my path, and then another not too far away. I don't see an actual trail of tracks, so I get the strange impression of a moose hopping through our swamp. This sounds undignified, and if there is one attribute I would give a moose, it is dignity. So forget the hopping image and let's return to something more magical. The moose is there, but I can't see her. She is something of a vapor for me, still, reminding me of distant moose (that's the plural) I have seen in years gone by, in faraway places. That one track transports me to a pond in Wyoming, with trumpeter swans. The moose was there, head down and up to his antlers in submerged lunch. When he picked up his head the water ran off him like a mountain landscape after a day of rain, when the sun is out again and the waterfalls are full.



The track takes me back in time to my horse-wrangler days, before house building and kids, fences and milking twice a day. Just me and my pony, under the western sky with a moose and no troubles—I can hear the chorus now and the chord progression on my old guitar.

What I like is that after all these miles and years, the moose is still with me, right in my own swamp here. She is about ten feet long and maybe seven feet at the shoulder. A big bull may be 1,400 pounds, growing and then shedding huge palmate antlers every year. These amazing sculptures are so specialized they are used only for fighting or defending against another bull moose. After the mating season they will drop off.

Moose calves are born in late May and are three feet high, reddish brown, and not spotted. I read about a hunting guide in Quebec who startled two calves in a clearing near a lake. They ran off over a bank and disappeared. After some searching the man discovered them both in the lake, completely submerged except for the ends of their noses.

"Moose" comes from the Algonquin word "mong-soa" or "mong-swa" for twig-eater. Willow, poplar, aspen, maple, birch, and balsam are trees they like, for twigs and leaves, but according to Ernest Thompson Seton, the real favorite is striped maple or moose maple,

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a handsome sapling-sized tree that is quite common around here.

Moose tracks are like those of a cow, only sharper and longer. You might see deer tracks in light snow, after they have melted out and grown some, and think these are moose tracks. But once you have seen the real thing, you'll never wonder again. They are six inches long! If the animal is walking, the track is quite pointed, with the two toes of the hoof close together. But running, bounding, trotting all put more drive on the hoof and the toes separate, giving the track a splayed look. It will also be deeper, and show the dewclaws, which are two small vestigial toes, an inch or more up the leg. Some people call these "heels" and they show up in tracks in deep snow, of course.

I haven't seen the moose in our swamp, but I believe in her. I know she walks around me, 1,000 pounds of secret neighbor who is capable of traveling through a mucky willow thicket without making a sound. If there is a bull down there, he can move just as silently, somehow maneuvering antlers that are five feet wide. Once I believe in moose, the rest is easy: magic, gods, hope for the future.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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Five Easy Steps to a Chemical-Free Lawn

If lawns were classified as a crop, they would constitute the fifth largest crop in this country, following corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay. Per year, Americans apply more than eighty million pounds of chemical products to lawns and gardens. Pesticides are poisonous and are not necessary for a beautiful lawn.

Pesticides and weed killers have been associated with birth defects, cancer, Parkinson's disease, male infertility, and immune disorders. Children are particularly vulnerable to the toxicity of pesticides. Even when these chemicals are applied outdoors, they come inside via shoes, paws, and air currents. Once indoors, they linger for months. Pesticides contaminate water supplies and harm birds, butterflies, and other creatures. They interfere with natural pest control.

Here are five easy tips to a beautiful, chemical-free lawn:

Tip One: Allow your grass to grow taller. The longer the blade, the deeper the roots, the stronger the grass! Strong grass is more resilient against weeds, disease and drought. Let your lawn do the work of choking out those weeds.

Tip Two: Lawns only need one inch of rain a week. During dry spells, let your lawn enter a period of natural dormancy and cut back on mowing. Your beautiful chemical-free green lawn will return when the rain does.

Tip Three: Leave grass clippings where they fall. Grass clippings can supply up to 50 percent of the nitrogen needed by a lawn. They naturally fertilize and add valuable nutrients to the soil. Also people should get a soil test to determine if pH is proper and to identify any nutrient deficiencies. Fall fertilizing to correct for missing nutrients is best.

Tip Four: Remove weeds by hand with a paring knife. You can also try corn gluten to stop the spread of broadleaf weeds—it won't kill them, but will stop new ones from germinating.

Tip Five: Reduce the size of your lawn by letting some of it turn to meadow. Meadows are more diverse and so better support natural predators of pests. Also, expand your gardens or xeriscape (a water-wise garden)—more paths, patios, flowerbeds, and ground covers (including meadow) can all replace lawn.

Make the move to a nontoxic, less costly yet still beautiful lawn that you can feel good about. Don't stress about having the perfect lawn—learn to tolerate a few weeds. For more information, visit www.cetonline.org.

— Jamie Cahillane, CET

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Herbs and Companion Planting

At last we are past the risk of frost for the season, and it is time to plant all those great vegetables we've been waiting for. Unfortunately there are a few bugs and critters out there that have been waiting to dine on our gardens as well. What to do? Rather than spray all kinds of potentially harmful repellents on the crops I want to eat, I'm going to try companion planting this year as the first line of defense.

Theories of companion planting have been around for centuries. Some of them appear to work quite well while others seem just this side of voodoo. The basic idea is to plant certain plant species near each other to obtain beneficial effects. First of all we can repel unwanted pests. A wide variety of companions can be planted with our favorite fruits and vegetables, and flowers too, to keep away damaging insects. Secondly, companion plants can be used to attract predator insects and birds. We can learn to control the insects that damage our crops and flowers by naturally attracting their enemies.

Don't forget about the insects we want to attract as pollinators. The problems honeybees are having, known as colony collapse disorder, have been in the news quite a bit during the last year. Honeybees are essential to improving commercial crop yields. While we don't entirely know the reasons for this colony collapse disorder, there are still many ways we can get around the lack of honeybees by using native pollinators in our own gardens.

Companion plants can theoretically enhance growth. There is a whole body of information dedicated to the idea that certain herbs and vegetables can stimulate each other's growth when planted close together. Much of what we know is folklore, and very little is scientifically proven. But, you know, why not experiment? It can't hurt to try some of these plant combinations and see if they work for you.

Then there is the advantage of soil improvement. Any longtime gardener will tell you that the most important element of your garden is the soil. By knowing which plants can contribute to soil health, we can improve our soil naturally over time, without using as many additives, which may, after all, contain unknown contaminants. If you have the time to wait for the effects, why not be safe and save some money at the same time by utilizing plants that improve the soil.

Finally, I can't overstress the importance of organic gardening. Companion planting techniques are one part of organic gardening methods. The key here is patience, because this approach takes time. Changes don't happen overnight, as they do with chemical remedies, but they last longer. I'm sure you have been in many gardens, as I have, where you can see that nature is out of balance. There are no birds or butterflies, and there may be huge infestations of unwanted insects attacking one plant species or another. Using synthetic chemical remedies to fix gardening problems is somewhat like bringing in a giant earthmoving tractor to till your garden in the spring! You may get the job done, but everything else in the vicinity will change as well. What we are talking about here is taking a more gentle approach, one that will leave the good plants and animals intact to protect us in the future.

Okay, enough companion planting philosophy. What goes where? Let's start with one of the most common garden pests—aphids. A number of our favorite herbs can repel aphids as well as other damaging insects through their strong scents. These "smelly" herbs include basil, chives, geraniums, marigolds, mint, and thyme. Try coriander, oregano, tansy, and wormwood as well.

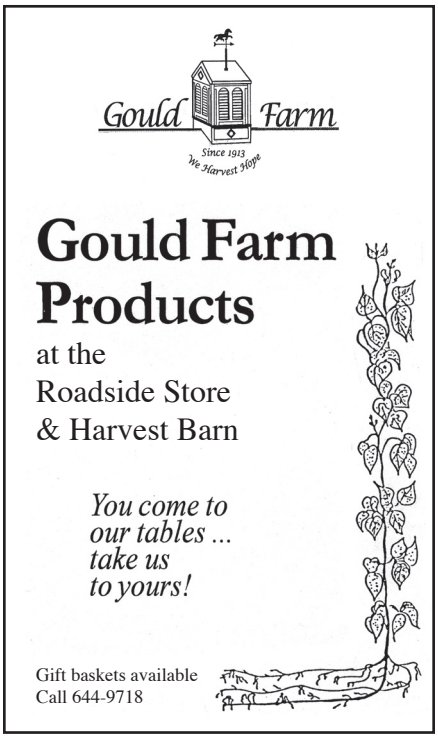
Some herbs work better than others to protect different types of plants from a variety of insect pests. Cabbages, for example, and all the vegetables in the brassica family, are very vulnerable to insect infestations. Dill, hyssop, rosemary, sage, and marigolds can repel your uninvited guests.

Carrots also can attract a few unwelcome characters, most commonly carrot flies. And then there are the below-soil pests like nematodes, the microscopic worms that can cause your carrots to become stunted and deformed. All of the plants in the allium family will help to deter carrot flies and some pesky rabbits. And marigolds contain compounds that can alleviate problems with nematodes.

Now for another way to deal with pests—we can attract the insects that naturally eat them. We get the good bugs, like green lacewing, ladybug beetles, and tiny parasite wasps, with daisy-like flowers or complex flowers like yarrow. For many insects smaller flowers are best, because a lot of our good bugs are little. Once attracted, the insects then stick around to eat some harmful bugs while they're in the neighborhood. That's the theory of attracting beneficials in a nutshell. Don't forget that we want to attract the insect-eating birds as well. For the birds we want to plant the big seed producers, like sunflowers, zinnias, rudbeckias, echinaceas, goldenrod (you can choose the ornamental kind), and thistles.

The key to all these recommendations is diversity! Plant as many different species and varieties as you possibly can. You never know what beneficial you might need to attract, depending on the climate conditions of a particular season. The last few years have certainly been an education in this regard—the growing season might be hot and dry, cool and wet, hot and wet, who knows. The more of a variety of insects and birds you can attract to your garden, the better your chances of keeping your own small ecosystem in balance.

Back to one of my favorite subjects—the pollinators. You don't have



to adopt a beehive to encourage pollinators in your garden. There are so many natives that you can attract by planting the flowers they want the most. Again the key here is diversity. All bees, like mason bees, orchard bees, and ground dwellers, are attracted to the colors yellow, white, blue, and purple. Birds can be pollinators, too. Plant tubular flowers in red and orange if you want to attract the hummingbirds. Hawk moths go for these same tubular flowers, so see what visitors you can get.

We can make our gardens beautiful and grow food while we contribute to soil health.

The legumes, like lupines, extract nitrogen from the air and fix it in the soil through the nodes on their roots. There are many members of the legume family—peas, beans, buckwheat, clover, alfalfa. Cover crops of legumes should be planted any time we have open patches of soil in our gardens. Having open ground is an invitation to weeds to colonize the area—much better to plant something useful instead that can keep out the weeds at the same time.

Now we come to the tricky part. Planting companions for the purpose of stimulating growth is not exactly a science, but many gardeners swear by it. Go ahead and experiment, preferably over a few years, and see if you can get the expected benefits.

Here are a few ideas to try. All the plants in the cabbage family get along well with the onion family, like leeks, garlic, and ornamental alliums. Herbs that may stimulate growth in the brassicas include chamomile, rosemary, sage, and thyme. Potatoes are especially prone to insect infestations, which is one reason why commercial growers use vast quantities of pesticides when growing them. Planting dill, rosemary, and horseradish can help to keep the potatoes healthy. Incorporating pine needles into the soil is said to protect potatoes from scab. Squashes appear to benefit from dill, nasturtiums, and sunflowers. Borage is also helpful because it attracts pollinators necessary for the squashes to bear fruit. And then there are the tomatoes, which for many gardeners are the prize crop of the summer and also the most vulnerable. Planting basil and parsley can stimulate growth, borage can attract pollinators, and the tansy and wormwood are said to discourage tomato hornworms. Who has seen tomato hornworms? They can really do some damage! Don't forget to pick them off as well.

Whew! Those are a lot of suggestions for one summer. I'm looking forward to trying a few. If you hold on to the principle of diversity above all else, you will be well on your way to a stable balanced garden. And that is what companion planting is really all about.

— Ruth Green

Personal Notes

Readers are encouraged to send any personal news for publication to the editor, P.O. Box 9 or montnews@localnet.com.

Eleanor Gradziel Celebrates 80th Birthday

Eleanor (Varney) Gradziel, former resident of Pixley Road, celebrated her 80th birthday on May 3. Eleanor and husband, Stan Gradziel (age 92!), now reside in Boulder, Colorado, with her youngest daughter, Patricia Whitaker, and family.

Alfred C. Emmel Promoted to Colonel, USAF

Alfred C. Emmel, M.D., whose family has been a presence on Lake Garfield since the 1920s, was recently promoted to Colonel in the US Air Force. Colonel Emmel is currently the Chief of Aerospace Medicine of the 377th Medical group at Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and has recently returned from a year's deployment as Deputy Commander, 380th Expeditionary Medical Group, Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates.

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Scenes from the trail (photos Jeramy Vallianos & Serena Becker)

Dispatches from the Pacific Crest Trail

Jeramy Vallianos, who grew up in Monterey, is spending the late spring and summer hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, as explained in this article. He will be sending the News *dispatches about his progress from time to time.*

Why the Hike?

My childhood in Monterey left me with many things to be thankful for; community values, family, friends, and a strong sense of place are just a few. Today I vividly remember the hardwood forests, the coves and pools of Lake Garfield, and the rolling cascades of the Konkapot that I wandered and explored as a youngster.

Outside the door in Monterey we experience diverse natural communities where each organism is intricately woven into the whole. My childhood interactions here gave me a deep appreciation for the complexity and beauty of wildness and an understanding that we humans are also interconnected members of these networks and have a responsibility to act accordingly.

These experiences also left me with a dedication to working toward the health and preservation of wild places. Today this need is ever apparent, with less than 5 percent of American native forest habitat remaining and with deforestation accounting for nearly one-fifth of the carbon discharged into the atmosphere. Wild landscapes filter the air and water that our communities depend on and provide the open space essential for rich bio-diversity.

It is in this spirit that my partner, Serena Becker, and I are setting out for a fund-raising through-hike attempt of the Pacific Crest Trail this spring. Spanning the distance between Mexico and Canada, the Pacific Crest Trail traverses the mountains and deserts of the Pacific West.

We have partnered with three conservation organizations and will hike in a walk-a-thon style to benefit their work. Through donations at the project website, www.walkforwild.org, funds will be raised to directly purchase threatened lands along the trail corridor through the Pacific Crest Trail Association, for land acquisitions toward the completion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument with the Pacific Forest Trust, and to support grassroots community and environmental work with the Cascadia Ecosystems Advocates.

The website will also offer interested parties the ability to participate and follow the adventures of the hike. As we stop into towns along the way, Serena and I will be posting photos and stories from the trail as well as keeping a blog at http://walkforwild.blogspot.com.

With a slightly frantic week of packing food boxes, readying supplies, trimming pack weight, and a train ride to Los Angeles behind us we're ready to

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begin our walk. While I'll miss the spring and summer seasons in the Berkshires, I look forward to the experience of the new places and landscapes along the trail and will work to keep the Monterey link open through the website.

First Leg Southern California

We're 3+ weeks into this journey and getting into a solid rhythm of walking, rising each day with the sun, the slow process of it all step by step, passing through waves of heat, the wind, lizards scattering, snakes rattling, buzzards drifting the thermals overhead, switchbacking, wandering our way through these diverse landscapes. The deserts are beautiful, so many different complexities and network communities that we've experienced in just this small piece of time. The changes and transitions are constant—dry crackling sage and chaparral hillsides, cactus valleys, cool canyons with clear running waters passing oak and cottonwood, sliding through snow, crisp air, subalpine reaches of Jeffrey and ponderosa pine, incense cedar, white fir, and the vast stretches of land scorched by fire: canyons and mountainsides, skeletal seas of bleached branches slowly being enveloped by new growth.

With rainfall this year an incredible bloom of wildflowers are covering the lands—vivid colors all around, paintbrush, lupine, lilac, the cactus flowers bright and miraculous, thousands of yucca blooms across the hillsides. Inside and around it all hummingbirds, wasps, bees, ants, moths and butterflies hovering and dancing.

We've been humbled by the kindness and generosity extended our way throughout the trip. In Wrightwood we met the Moore family, who took us into their home to share stories and food. At the Big Bear Hostel (www.bigbearhostel.com) Grayson toured us around the town and lent us some cruiserswhich we pedaled around the town from China buffet to the health food store, laughing in our puffy jackets.

And now after a wonderful little break with the family to see my sister Chrissy graduate from UC Berkeley we start back at it ... to continue being humbled, walking on through the landscapes, skies above and city lights below, in heat and hunger, tired, frustrated, elated, mind wandering to some dreamed-up foodstuff, alongside the spaces of presence, walking meditations ... small bodies passing slowly through canyons and mountains, tiny dust clouds gathering and disappearing with each footstep.

— Jeramy Vallianos

Berkshire Playwrights Lab Opens

The Berkshire Playwrights Lab, a new theater company in the Berkshires, will be presenting a series of staged readings of new plays, by emerging and established playwrights, this summer at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center Theater in Great Barrington. The Berkshire Playwrights Lab is the artistic collaboration of founders Joe Cacaci, Jim Frangione, and Bob Jaffe, all established theater professionals, and Managing Director Claudia Crane of Monterey.

The Berkshire Playwrights Lab is dedicated to encouraging, developing, and presenting new plays. Through readings, workshops, and fully staged productions, The Lab will provide emerging and established writers with a professional and creative environment, while offering audiences the unique and provocative opportunity to share in the dramatic evolution of premiere works.

Berkshire Playwrights Lab performances are scheduled for Wednesdays at 8:00 pm on June 25, July 16, July 30, August 13, and August 27. The 2008 summer season play selections and cast are to be announced.

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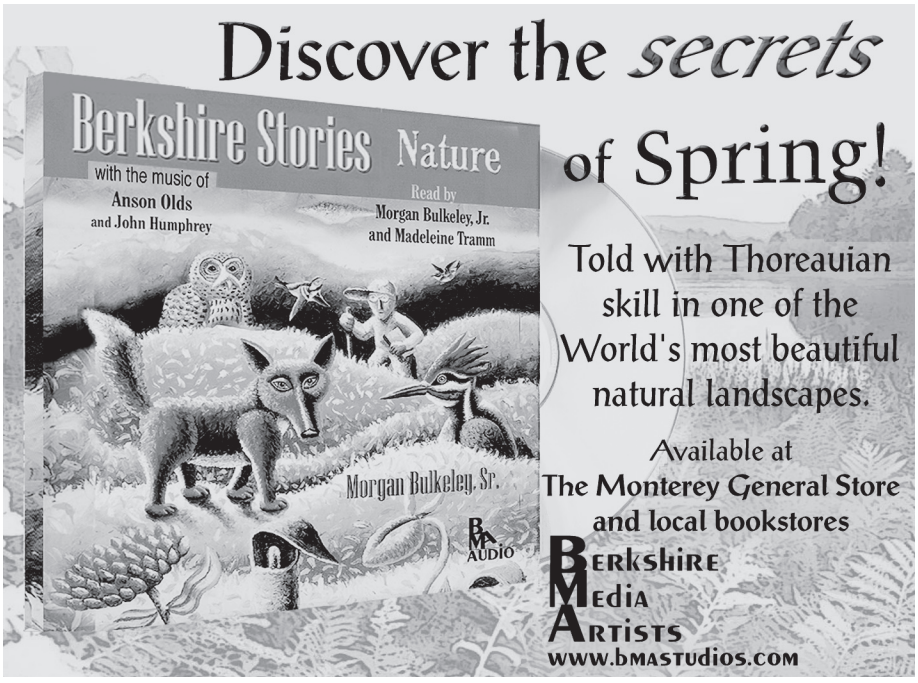

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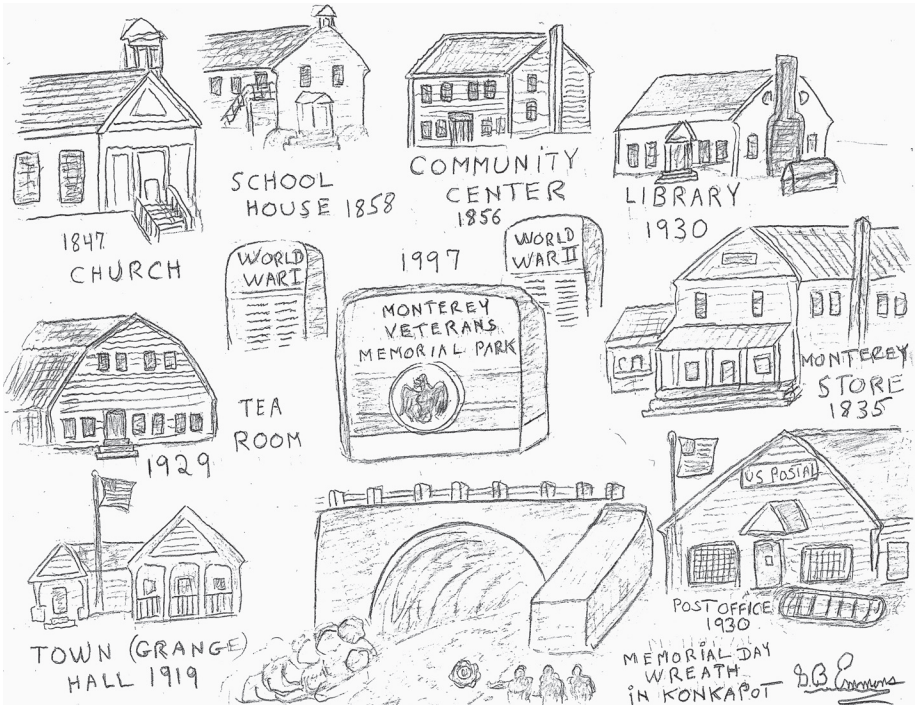
Memorial Day Landmarks



Memorial Day once again was observed in Monterey at Veteran's Memorial Park to honor our servicemen and women who left their small town to serve their country. The memorial services later in the day took place in a bucolic setting of local landmarks that profiled both people and places of the town' s historic heritage.

The town beach also opened for the season for those who planned a holiday family outing under the sun, a traditional image of Americana, bringing their deck chairs with every intention of a swim in Lake Garfield. Perhaps a few still remembered when the facilities there were improved and reconfigured in 1973. Some may have even known Edith Wilson, who with others bequeathed a plot of land to make it possible, as well as later giving her home to become the community center (not to mention the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund).

A lot of water has since then flowed through the three adjacent tubes providing outflow into Brewer Pond and down into the Konkapot River, like grains of sand through an hourglass that measures the seasons of the town's history. The Konkapot from there heads toward the center of town, but before passing by the children's playground and ball field, it must flow through the two crumbling foundations that supported the footbridge for golfers to cross over from what was once the third to the fourth hole of the town golf course. The course was abandoned just before World War II, partly in patriotic anticipation of a gas shortage. In 1938, Hitler had annexed Austria, and eventually 253 Monterey regular and summer residents would serve and pay a price in their lives to help save England from invasion and also liberate most of Western Europe.

After the gathering at the church steps and the parade down Main Street, one of the three memorial wreaths is laid in the Konkapot River where it comes under the bridge past town hall, and before the post office, now renamed the Walter M. Parks building for Walter's forty-two dedicated years as postmaster. His friendly manner and homespun humor made him a town icon who might just as well have walked out of a Norman Rockwell illustration for a *Saturday Evening Post* of the World War II period.

Nearby the Monterey General Store continues as possibly the oldest of its kind in continuous operation in America, carrying on the finest tradition of Lester and Julius Miner, storekeepers there for more than half of the twentieth century. A new dining area opens out to the pool in back. In the tea room across the way one can feel nostalgic for the era when it operated a soda fountain in a country scene equal to those of Thornton Wilder's play *Our Town*, for which he won the Pulitzer Prize with his theme linking the smallest events of everyday life and the commonplace with the cosmic dimension of human experience.

When on this day the bell in the church tower chimes over the rooftops, inside the church is a plaque for Ralph H. Abercrombie, minister from 1920–1940. Like one of his successors the late Reverend Raymond Ward and his wife, Mary, he must have led the congregation in singing the hymnal verse "Time like a never ending stream bears all its sons away." After dark there is always a light over the library door, and inside are plaques for two librarians who watched over the library for more than eighty years: Newman Abercrombie (1924–1978) and Anne Marie Makuc (1978–2005). The grandfather clock in the library quietly ticks away, while outside the flow over milldam roars away into the night, reminding us that to remember is the best way to turn back the hands of the clock and that Memorial Day is itself a landmark in time to celebrate.

— George B. Emmons

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"How'd She Get Out?"

Shortly after beginning my Ob-Gyn career I met "Julia," a soft-spoken African-American woman who had recently moved to the Northeast from rural Georgia. She had four children, all boys, and was now pregnant for the fifth time. She was also thirty-five years old and at increased risk for a baby with Down syndrome.

I explained that we could screen for this abnormality by doing an amniocentesis, a procedure in which fluid is drawn from the pregnant uterus for the purpose of chromosome analysis. When Julia asked what benefit the procedure would offer, I told her that it would hopefully eliminate any concern, but should there be a serious abnormality, some parents would prepare themselves for a special needs child while others would opt for terminating the pregnancy. I also explained that there was a small risk of causing serious damage, including losing the pregnancy. After sitting quietly for a moment, she said she wasn't sure but she would pray over it and let me know.

The next day she was back, this time with her husband, who was every bit as quiet and thoughtful as she was. He sat next to her, leaning forward with his elbows on his knees and his workingman's cap in his hands. Again I explained the situation, including the options and potential complications. When I finished he turned to look at her. Then, after a very few moments, they both broke into soft smiles and turned back to face me.

"Thank you, doctor," he said gently, "but we're going to accept whatever the Lord gives us, so we won't be needing that test." I then looked to Julia who confidently nodded her approval.

The remainder of Julia's pregnancy went easily, as did her childbirth. Even during her most active stage of labor she didn't deviate from her pattern of quiet strength, never crying out and refusing any type of pain relief. Meanwhile, her husband held her hand and stayed by her side, mopping the beads of perspiration from her face and leaning in to whisper encouragement during the hardest contractions.

When she delivered a perfect baby girl, there wasn't the usual shouting or exultation that would normally accompany such a joyful occasion. Instead, their heads came together in a silent moment of thanksgiving. Then, after spending a moment to admire their new daughter, her husband took Julia's hand again and smiled at her, the same smile I had seen months before in my office, except that this time his eyes were glistening.

A few hours after the delivery I visited Julia's room, where I came upon a perfect Normal Rockwell tableau. Julia was propped up in bed, looking radiant and holding her newborn daughter in the crook of her left arm while her four sons and her husband stood by, arranged in order of height. The youngest, a five-year-old, hovered next to his mother, the two middle boys were positioned next to him, and the oldest, barely entering adolescence, stood in erect dignity beside his father. All four boys were dressed identically in white shirts, red bow ties, and close haircuts, a picture I knew I'd never forget.

I watched, enthralled, as the three older boys looked lovingly at the baby, all of them behaving like young gentlemen. The little one, however, couldn't contain himself.

"Mummy!" he said, his eyes wide with wonder, "Show me where she busted outta your stomach!"

"That's not how she got out, Honey," Julia answered him.

"How'd she get out then?" he demanded.

Just then Julia caught sight of me. Giggling, she motioned her head in my direction. "He'll tell you," she said, and for the first time I heard both her and her husband laugh out loud.

My response was to laugh along with them and try to change the subject, complimenting the boys on how handsome they looked and engaging them in conversation about how they were going to help take care of their new baby sister. During this entire exchange, however, the five-year-old's eyes never left me.

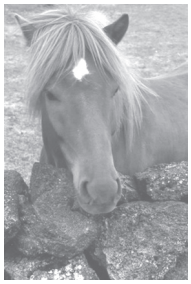
I turned my attention to Julia, inquiring as to how she was feeling and then drawing a privacy curtain around her bed for a brief examination. The boys waited nearby while I did so, the older ones respectfully quiet, but the little one jabbering continuously, insisting on explanations from his father as to what was happening.

When it was apparent that Julia was okay I made a brief note in the chart and prepared to exit. After pulling back the curtain I wished the family well and headed toward the door, but just as I reached it the little one piped up.

"Hey, doctor," he called across the room, "you forgot to tell me how she got out!"

I have to admit I was flustered enough that I kept moving and pretended not to hear him, but I can still recall the family's laughter as I turned the corner into the hall, ears burning, and chuckling to myself that a five-year-old had made his mother's doctor blush.

— David Shifrin



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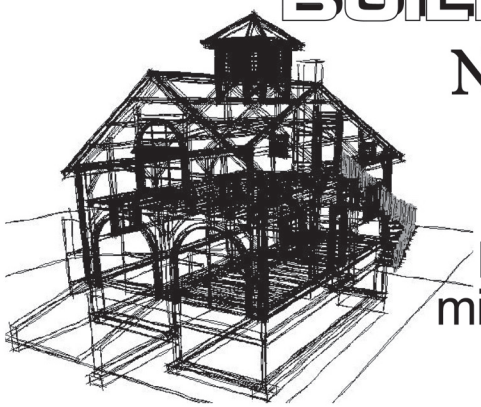
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Remembering David Andersen

David G. Andersen, 63, of Hartsville-New Marlborough Road in New Marlborough died early Monday morning, May 19, 2008, at his home following a courageous battle with mesothelioma.

Born on January 21, 1945, in Boston, he was the son of Kenneth and Mary Hogan Andersen. He attended local schools in Boston and graduated from Springfield College with a degree in psychology. Following college he enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he was based throughout the Midwest.

David married Susan Doane on December 19, 1970. The couple then made their home in New Marlborough.

David was a talented craftsman. He began work building custom homes and worked as project manager at Edith Wharton, as well as a restoration consultant. He later was a self-employed builder, working on various homes and projects throughout the area along with his sons.

He liked spending time outdoors, working in his gardens and cultivating his apple orchard, where he grew heirloom apples. He enjoyed photography, as well as fishing and was an avid sports fan.

David is survived by his wife of 37 years, Susan, along with their two sons, Jesse Andersen of Cranston, RI, and Nicholas Andersen, and daughter Merina Andersen, both of New Marlborough. He also leaves two sisters, Elizabeth Falxa of Newton, MA, and Johanna Pratt of Ashfield, MA, and one brother, Kenneth Andersen of Rutland, VT, as well as two sisters-in-law, Lucinda Shmulsky of New Marlborough and Diane Cook of Pittsfield and his brother-in-law, Russell Doane of Lancaster, PA, along with several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a son, Ezra Andersen, who died on July 20, 1999.

Memorial contributions may be made to either the Dana Farber Cancer Research or to Brigham & Women's Hospital, for the International Mesothelioma Program through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances, memories and reflections may be sent to the family through www.finnertyandstevens.com.

Remembering Martha Gile

Martha Elizabeth Gile, BSBA, ALA, 80, of Stockbridge Road, Lenox, died suddenly on the morning of her 80th birthday, Tuesday, April 29, 2008, at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield. Born in New Lebanon, N.Y., on April 29, 1928, daughter of Levi P. and Doris Vivian Soules Gile, Martha moved to Berkshire County when she was young. She attended local schools, including the former Searles High School in Great Barrington. Martha received a degree from Springfield Technical Community College with a certificate in operating room technology in 1972. In 1977, she received a diploma from the former LaBaron Hairdressing Academy. She returned to Springfield Technical Community College, where she studied Liberal Arts and General Studies and earned an Associate in Arts degree in 1997 and a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Columbia Southern University in Ocean Beach, Ala., in 2005.

Over the years, Martha worked as a surgical technician in the Springfield area and as a certified nurses assistant at Berkshire County Association of Retarded Citizens, BARC, in Pittsfield.

She enjoyed oil painting, traveling, and studying birds. Martha cherished spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was a member of the Trinity Episcopal Church, where she was a member of the church choir. Martha leaves her son, Gary F. Koloski of Baltimore, Md., and her daughter, Marlene V. Koloski of Lee; a sister, Patricia A. Tilley of Salem, Ore.; three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by her brother, Clayton R. Gile.

Memorial contributions may be made to either the Trinity Episcopal Church in Lenox, the Monterey Library, or Susan G. Komen for the Cure, an association dedicated to Breast Cancer research, through Finnerty and Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances, memories and reflections may be sent to the family through www.finnertyandstevens.com.

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Remembering Dorothy Jordan

Dorothy Jordan, formerly known as "Dot" Jenssen of Main Road, Monterey, succumbed gracefully to cancer on October 16, 2007, in St Petersburg, Florida.

Dot was born in Queens, New York, to Marjorie and John Jordan on May 27, 1929. She grew up in Woodhaven, Long Island, New York, with sister Jacqueline, her only sibling. Dot attended Buffalo State Teachers College before following her sister to the Berkshires for a summer of work and play at the then notorious Jug End Barn Resort. Stories could not be coaxed from the sisters, but many a knowing look was exchanged between the two whenever asked about their time at the resort.

The Berkshires, and all places where music and dancing could be found, were to Dottie's liking. As such, the Olde Egremont Club, a very popular Dixieland jazz and dance nightspot, became her favorite hangout. Here she met club co-owner Bjorn Jenssen, Known to everyone as "Del." Bjorn fell in love with the vivacious Dot and they were soon married at a highly esteemed service station located in the quaint village of Hillsdale, N.Y., on Christmas Eve, 1952. After they were married, Dot and Del went on to buy a home in Monterey.

Once in Monterey Dot began working at High Fidelity Magazine in Great Barrington, where she met notable Monterey character Bea Fenn. Bea and her husband, Sheldon Fenn, became part of a large, fun-loving group of Dot's friends that included locals Kay and Bill Mielke, Fran and Dean Amidon, Barbara and Richard Tryon, Zoe and Eddy Seidmann, and a host of others. Dot was a real party person, and if there was a party she wanted to be throwing it, or be attending in full-dress regalia.

Dot and Del continued to run the Olde Egremont Club while raising and taming their four children, Dale, Dara, Scott, and Jill. They spent many happy hours growing up in Monterey, playing with the children of Dot's aforementioned friends, and with the four girls of Fred and Marie Leuchs, aka "Mommy Marie." Most summer days all could be found at the town beach

with Scott on a long leash, regardless of weather conditions. Dottie loved the water and spent several summers helping Fran Amidon and Maryellen Brown teach swimming lessons at the lake. Dot also worked, along with Barbara Chamberlain, who became a very close friend, at the then popular Hillside Restaurant .

If you were to stop by the Jenssen place, you could expect to see Dottie swinging from a ladder, painting the house or hauling mortar up to Del while building their home. Dot never shied away from hard work and had a great eye for architecture and interior design. To help pay the bills, she took a job as a school bus driver in town and created her own sewing business, "Dot's All." She was an expert tailor and seamstress, and spent her entire life designing and sewing clothing and home accessories for herself, children, and friends. If you happen to catch Scott in a flashy Hawaiian-type shirt you can bet that it's one of many that Dot made for him. During the early '60s and into the '70s Dot (and Del) worked at the Catamount ski area, and in return the children were all given tickets and learned how to ski. They are all most grateful for this opportunity.

Dottie left a lasting legacy in Monterey by way of her involvement, along with many united friends and allies, in a group known as "Save Scenic Monterey." This group worked tirelessly for several years to defeat a proposition by the state that would have put a major highway directly through Monterey. Their efforts culminated in a road trip to the Statehouse in Boston where Carl Finger sang his "Ballad of Route 23" and Dottie showed off her famous legs, all to great effect. Short story: end of plans for a bypass.

Dot moved to Florida around 1987 or so where she continued to live life to its fullest, making wonderful friends while enjoying the warm, sunny climate. Dottie was an avid reader and had at least four newspaper subscriptions from which she would regularly clip articles that she knew would be of interest to her children. An avid Democrat, she was opposed to many of the current administration's strategies. She wrote many a letter to various politicians and became a champion for the retired single woman.

Remembering Anne Vickerman

Anne E. Vickerman, 88, of Monterey died Saturday, May 3, 2008, at Fairview Commons Nursing and Rehab Center, Great Barrington. Born October 29, 1919, in Richfield, Conn., daughter of Stephen and Julia Mckazie Babis, she was a graduate of Stratford High School, Stratford, Conn. She moved to Great Barrington in 1945 and to Monterey in 1957.

After graduating from high school she worked as a governess in Larchmont, N.Y., where she met her husband. During World War II she worked at G.E. making radar units. She also worked as a special policewoman in Great Barrington, was a cook at Avalon School, and was a housekeeper at Monterey Kindergarten until she was 80 years old.

Anne was a member of the Monterey and West Stockbridge Granges. She was instrumental in the first Lake Mansfield cleanup. She enjoyed feeding and watching birds, and gardening. She was known at the "Mitten Lady" knitting 200 pairs of mittens for area kindergartens.

Anne's husband, Harry O. Vickerman, whom she married in 1942, died in January 1997. She leaves two sons, Robert and his wife Debra, of Merrimac, and Peter, of Portland, Maine; one brother, James Babis, of Shelton, Conn.; seven grandchildren, Ingalil Wimbs, Sara Koehn, Jonathan Vickerman, Thomas Goewey, Amber-Lyn Zimmer, Stephanie Cameron, and Julie Colliton, and four great grandchildren. She was also predeceased by one son, Thomas, who died in January 1998.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in Anne's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society or to the Massachusetts Audubon Society in care of the Birches-Roy Funeral Home, 33 South Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Dorothy leaves behind her sister, Jacqueline Jordan of St. Petersburg, Florida, a former beauty pageant winner, actress, and raiser of Seeing Eye therapy dogs; Jacqueline's son, Kris Mhermann of Honolulu, Hawaii, a contractor (another son, John Mhermann of Texas, died in Afghanistan in 2006); three daughters, Dale Jenssen of San Antonio, Texas, a multimedia artist, sculptor, seamstress, and rafting guide, Dara Jenssen of Great Barrington, mother, future fitness instructor, private chef, baker, and decorative painter, and Jill Jenssen of Reno, Nevada, textile artist and happy driver and co-owner of the biggest truck a person can legally drive on a highway; and one son, Scott J. Jenssen of Monterey, contractor, First Steward T.V. State of Maine, World War II historian in the making, and current Monterey selectman, and his wife, Tina, longtime keeper of bar in Great Barrington, tender of Scott, and gardener extraordinaire.

Dorothy also leaves three grandchildren: grandson Jules Jenssen of South Egremont, drummer, bandleader, producer of musical events, member of the Youth Operational Board at Railroad Street Youth project, and general Dude about town; granddaughter Olivia Jenssen, poet, writer, sarcastic humorist, artist, wisdom-dispensing friend to many, and sophomore at Monument Mountain High School; and, last but not least, granddaughter Nadine Stoner of Reno Nevada, dancer, beauty queen, rival comedian to her cousin, and high honor student at her School for the Performing Arts.

Dorothy's memorial service will be held on June 7 at 2 p.m. at the Monterey Corashire Cemetery, with a reception following at the home of Scott and Tina Jenssen, 155 Main, Road, Monterey. Friends of the late Dorothy Jordan who would like to participate may RSVP to Scott and Tina at 528-9131.

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The Big Picture

To the Editor:

I went to Town Meeting on May 3rd and got my annual dose of grassroots democracy in action, the voice and vote of the Common Person. It always cheers me up, especially in a discouraging national election year. This year I was moved by the discussion about the flooding of homes around Lake Buel, especially in April 2007, which I'm sure no one can forget: rescue workers wading through deep water, citizens concerned for their health, and that of their children, and of course damage to property.

What we heard was a request for financial support for some studies to see what can be done to prevent this from happening to these people again. We learned that "…. in years gone by, the farmers took care of the problem themselves ...," meaning people with the right kind of equipment did some dredging, levee-building, and rerouting of the river to protect themselves and their interests.

One neighbor pointed out that this area is a floodplain. He went on to recommend that what the town needs is good tax-revenue producing property, not a floodplain. I agree we do need money, all the time, to pay for schools, roads, and of course studies that may lead to dredging and rerouting of waterways.

Seems to me that if there is anything we should have learned by now it is that with the bottom line driving our relationship with the environment we have gotten ourselves into an amazing mess, as a species. We should know that only Ma Nature can make a planet, a rainforest, an ocean, a clean atmosphere, a floodplain. We folks can alter all these things, and we have done it to the nines, to protect our interests all over the globe and into the sky. But what happens in the next flood, when the rushing river bypasses Lake Buel and heads downstream gathering force? What kinds of habitats, human and otherwise, are to be found downstream? Do we know?

I'm hoping the revenues voted to support the folks in the Lake Buel floodplain in their predicament will be used to look at the big picture. Can we keep the existing houses safe from the 100-year floods without dredging the wetland? Can we require future builders to get above the high water mark? We know that global warming is bringing us extreme weather with greater frequency than ever before. At the same time that we restrict building to high ground, can we look at our emissions, get involved with the 350 ppm goal so those floods return to a pattern of coming roughly every hundred years and the polar bears survive their melting habitat? (Three hundred fifty ppm refers to CO2 in the atomosphere, currently at the untenable level of 383 ppm.)

It's going to take recycling and a whole lot more. It will take lobbying Congress, getting the US present at the December 2009 climate conference in Copenhagen. It will take staying home more, buying local, giving up beef and coffee; and it might take sandbags instead of dredging, piers instead of redesigning a river, negotiation instead of war. This shift will take courage and imagination and it absolutely begins at home.

— Bonner McAllester

Scottish Dancers Needed

Get a great workout and enjoy lively Scottish music. Join the Great Barrington Scottish dancers who meet each Wednesday from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. at Berkshire Pulse, 410 Park St., Housatonic.

No partners are needed, and beginners are very welcome—no previous experience required. Soft-soled shoes are recommended.

Since circumstances occasionally force us to skip a week, please call Jean at 518-672-4243 or Ted at 413-698-2944 to confirm. We'd love to have you join us.

Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 9 a.m., Town Hall.

Saturday, June 7:

Friends of Lake Garfield meeting, 9:30 a.m., Firehouse.

An Evening with Ben Luxon and the Bard, 8 p.m. Sandisfield Arts Center. $20. See p. 15.

Sunday, June 8: Nature walk led by Bonner McAllester, 10:30 a.m. Meet at Land Trust property on Mt. Hunger Road. Preregistration required, call 413-528-5134.

Thursday, June 12: Free Blood Pressure Clinic, 2 p.m., Monterey Town Hall.

Tuesday, June 17: Free Health Screening, Community Health Program, 10 a.m., Town Hall.

Saturday, June 21: Alexander Technique Workshop with Betsy Polatin, 10 a.m.–noon, Sandisfield Arts Center. $25. See p. 15.

Castle Street Theater Company presents "Jack and The Beanstalk," 6 p.m. Sandisfield Arts Center. See p. 15.

Saturday, June 28:

Sruli and Lisa: Klezmer!, 8 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center. $20. See p. 15.

Sunday, June 29: Music and alternative energy demonstration by Jay Mankita, 11 a.m., Otis Gazebo. See p. 17.

The Observer
April 26–May 25, 2008

High temp. (5/14)	75°
Low temp. (5/20)	32°
Avg. high temp.	59.8°
Avg. low temp.	37.5°
Avg. temp.	48.7°
Total rainfall	4.17 in.

Rainfall on 24 days, trace of snow 1 day.

Drop Box for *Monterey News*

Thanks to Kenn Basler at the Monterey General Store, the *News* now has a convenient drop box in the center of town where submissions may be left without going through the post office or trekking out to the editor's home. The box is on the door on the loading dock at the store. We invite and encourage submissions from readers—articles, drawings, photographs, announcements, poems, signed letters, or surprise us with something new. Just leave them in the drop box and the editor will pick them up.

Transfer Station Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (e-mail or computer disk if possible) by the 20th of the month before publication, addressed to the Editor. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the Generaal Store. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail (free) to same address. We will set up an ad for your Monterey-based business or event, or advertisers may submit a computer formatted ad (pdf, tif, or jpeg format—Word files not acceptable) with graphics. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montnews@localnet.com.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Rachel Arnow, pp. 12, 31; Maureen Banner, pp. 10, 11, 17, 21, 23, 30; George Emmons, p. 24; Bonner McAllester, p. 18.

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